

From: Popcox13@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 9:16pm
Subject: Microsoft Lawsuit

January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my support of the United States Department of Justice's recent efforts to settle the Microsoft antitrust lawsuit.

This case really should not have been brought against Microsoft. Microsoft's innovations have and continue to contribute immensely to the productivity and economy of the United States. Microsoft single-handedly through "Window's Operating System" made computers accessible to the world. Computers are now in virtually every household and business in the country. Microsoft may have been aggressive in their business dealings, but that is the way of the business world in a free-market society. Aggressive business tactics are not necessarily the same as antitrust violations.

Despite my feeling that this case should not have been filed, at this stage of the game I think the wise course of action is to settle the case. The settlement agreement the parties negotiated is fairly reasonable. It will require Microsoft to refrain from retaliating against computer manufacturers that install software other than Windows on their computers. Along those same lines, it will require Microsoft to not retaliate against software developers who develop programs that compete with Windows. These concessions should help the competition operate on a more level playing field.

I appreciate your efforts to settle this case.

Sincerely,
Howard w.Cox